

Appln. No. 10/529,336
Amendment dated November 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 30, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The August 30, 2006 Final Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are amended and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

Inasmuch the present Amendment raises no new issues for consideration, and, in any event, places the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for consideration on appeal, its entry under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116 are respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication that claim 14 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, is acknowledged and appreciated. In response, claim 14 is rewritten in independent form to be in form for allowance.

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PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action claims 10, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,904,593 (Saito et al.), in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2002/0142655 (Nimura et al.).

In response, claim 10 is amended to more clearly define the present claimed invention over the cited references.

Saito et al. teach that release of the final engagement of the connector from housing 28 in Fig. 2 is accomplished as follows:

First, the spacer 30 is moved toward the front direction of the housing 28 as depicted in Fig. 4. The retaining rods 68, 70 are pulled from the refuge spaces of the housing 28 by this action and accordingly, the spacer 28 becomes upwardly movable.

Furthermore, the successive upward movement of the spacer 30 allows producing the predetermined distances w between the housing and the spacer as shown in Fig. 3. If the lances 44, 46 are flexed so as to be pushed upward toward the refuge spaces 60, 62 by inserting a tool from these clearances, terminals 32 can be released from the back of the housing.

That is to say, in order to release the final engagement of the connector from the housing, two steps are required before the tool for arm operation is inserted. Moreover, the arm operating

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holes are not provided independently from the terminal inserting holes but the upward movement of the spacer 30 produces the alternative space of the arm operating holes.

In contrast, when the connector is to be released from the housing in the present claimed invention as defined by claim 10, the front holder moves upwardly as shown in Fig. 14. As a result, movement of the spacer toward the front direction of the housing is not required. In the condition illustrated in Fig. 14, an axis of the arm operating hole coincides with that of the locking arm, so that the terminal can be released and pulled out by inserting the tool within the arm operating hole. Since the arm operating hole is provided independently from the terminal inserting hole, no new space is required for releasing the locking arm, and moreover, the tool can be inserted to the arm operating hole without fail.

In view of the foregoing, claim 10 is patentable over Saito et al. under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

None of the other references of record close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by claim 10 and Saito et al. Therefore, claim 10 is patentable over all of the references of record under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

Claims 13 and 15 are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 10 and are patentable over the cited references in view

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of their dependence on claim 10 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in these dependent claims.

In view of all of the foregoing, claims 10 and 13-15 are in form for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

* * * * *


Entry of this Amendment under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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